

Santa Rosa Junior College Mathematics' Department Statement Re: AB705 & AB1705

The California Community College Chancellor's office is interpreting the bill AB705 to effectively ban all pretransfer level math courses from being offered at California Community Colleges beginning Fall 2022. Proposed legislation, [AB1705\(Irwin\)](#), directly bans pretransfer level math and English classes at all California Community Colleges.

Beginning Fall 2022 the Math Department at Santa Rosa Junior College **will not be allowed to offer Beginning Algebra** (MATH 150 & 154), **Intermediate Algebra** (MATH 156 & 154), **Math for Associate Degrees** (MATH 101), and **Pre-statistics** (MATH 161). The Math Department *vehemently* opposes AB1705 and the effective ban of pretransfer level math classes for the following reasons:

- **Access:** Our department supports students having the ability to enroll in math courses that fits their educational level. Students require access to pretransfer math courses that will strengthen their foundational math skills necessary for their enrollment in transfer level courses.
- **Raises Graduation Requirement:** The ban on pretransfer math courses raises the Community College graduation requirement from a pretransfer level math course (Intermediate Algebra or a Liberal Arts math course) to a higher (transfer) level math course. Doing this likely puts underprepared students into classes for which they are not prepared, which increases their chances of failing and repeating classes.
- **Associate Degree & Career Education Students:** Students pursuing an Associate Degree (AS), or a certificate in the Career Education (CE) Program will now be required to take a higher (transfer) level math course. Doing this likely puts underprepared students into classes for which they are not prepared, which increases their chances of failing and repeating classes.
- **Underserved Students:** The ban of pretransfer math courses significantly impacts students from low socio-economic households, marginalized communities, underserved students, and communities with large opportunity gaps. These students will no longer have access to an appropriate level math course (based on their level of education) to succeed in a transfer level math course.
- **Diverse Student Population:** This ban ignores the diverse population attending our Community College System. The ban directly impacts (often) underprepared, new students, returning students who have been out of school for years, and dual enrollment students. Each population turns to their local community college as a resource to learn the foundational pretransfer level skills in order to succeed in college, in the workforce, and society.
- **Violates Mission Statement:** The California Community College's primary mission (as provided in the California Education Code) is:
The California Community Colleges shall, as a primary mission, offer academic and vocational instruction at the lower division level for both younger and older students, including those persons returning to school. Public community colleges shall offer instruction through but not beyond the second year of college.

Banning pretransfer level math courses does not offer academic instruction at the lower division level for younger, older, or returning students. This ban violates the California Education Code.

- **Violates SRJC's Mission Statement:** [Santa Rosa Junior College's Mission](#) is:
 - *We focus on student learning by preparing students for transfer; by providing responsive career and technical education; and by improving students' foundational skills.*
 - *We provide a comprehensive range of student development programs and services that support student success and enrich student lives.*
 - *We support the economic vitality, social equity and environmental stewardship of our region.*
 - *We promote personal and professional growth and cultivate joy at work and in lifelong learning.*
 - *We foster critical and reflective civic engagement and thoughtful participation in diverse local and global communities.*
 - *We regularly assess, self-reflect, adapt, and continuously improve.*

Banning pretransfer level math courses violates every bullet point of SRJC's Mission.

We encourage you to join the Math Department and oppose the ban on pretransfer level math courses.

- **The Mathematics Department at Santa Rosa Junior College**

What Can You Do?

If you disagree with the decision by the Chancellor's Office to effectively ban all pre-transfer level math classes, we encourage you to voice your opinion by signing the petition, <https://chnng.it/qsmaskRrzc6>, and by sending a message to the contacts listed below. We encourage you to send a personal message, but you can also copy, paste, and edit one of the messages given below the contact information. We encourage you to reach out to student groups in your own colleges, your campus and/or local newspaper, and members of your community.

Where to Send Your Message:

- John Hetts, Executive of Research and Data at California Community College Chancellor's Office, email: jhetts@CCCCO.edu
- Eloy Oakley, California Community College Chancellor, Oakley's Executive Assistant email: mrmos@cccco.edu
- You state assembly representatives. The state representatives for Santa Rosa Junior College's district are given below. If you live in a different district, you can find your representatives here: <https://findyourrep.legislature.ca.gov/>
 - Jim Wood, CA State Assembly Member for SRJC's District, website to contact his office: <https://a02.asmdc.org/contact>
 - Mike McGuire, CA State Senator for SRJC's District, email: senator.mcguire@senate.ca.gov
- Members of the [California Assembly HigherEd Committee](#), members of the [Academic Senate](#) for California Community College, and members of the [Faculty Association of California Community Colleges](#).
- Frank Chong, President of SRJC, email: fchong@santarosa.edu

Statement for a Student to Copy:

Dear XXX,

My name is XXX and I am a student at Santa Rosa Junior College. I am writing to express my deep concern about the lack of available mathematics class options here at SRJC, due to the AB705 and the upcoming AB1705 legislation. With the passing of AB705, my college is prohibited from offering any pre-transfer level math classes. May I ask, what options are available to students who do not feel ready to take a transfer level math class?

As a student with my own individual goals, I strongly feel that I should have the freedom to choose which mathematics classes suit my educational plan. As the person with the best knowledge about my own mathematical background, I also feel that only I can determine which classes I need to increase my chances of success. Assuming that students enroll in pre-transfer level math classes because "they don't know better" is insulting and patronizing towards students.

The Chancellor's Office via AB705 and AB1705 says that in order to be successful I must complete a transfer level mathematics course within a year of enrollment. This shows a serious lack of consideration on your part for those students who do not have an intent to transfer to a four-year university, who want to earn a certificate in a technical trade, who did not grow up in an environment where education was a main priority, who are returning to school after a long

break, who went into the military, who are single parents, and who want to pursue a BSTEM education but have a desire to start at a pre-transfer level, to name a few. The Chancellor's Office has taken away my right to choose what I learn and when I learn it, and has completely abandoned entire groups of students in the effort to pigeonhole everyone into the highly flawed "throughput" narrative. I demand that you preserve my right to pursue all educational options, which may include taking pre-transfer level math classes.

Thank you,

XXX

Statement for General Public to Copy

Dear XXX,

I am writing to voice my disagreement with AB705 and AB1705 effectively banning all pre-transfer level math classes at California Community Colleges. Not all community college students are ready to be successful in transfer level math their first year in college, and not all community college students need to take transfer level math. This ban removes educational opportunities to our most vulnerable student groups, particularly those who come from lower socio-economic households, and will lead to greater inequality in California. I ask that you don't remove the 'community' from community college by forcing community colleges to remove all pre-transfer level math classes. All students should have the chance to be successful in pursuing their education at California Community Colleges.

Thank You,

XXX